



State of California
The Natural Resources Agency
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE	Hihn's Mill Road Water Wells and Storage Tanks		
PROJECT LOCATION	Soquel Demonstration State Forest, Soquel, CA	COUNTY	Santa Cruz
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT	4750 Soquel-San Jose Road		
ADDRESS	Soquel, CA 95073	PHONE	(831) 475-8643

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project involves drilling of two water wells, pump installation, and placement of two storage tanks and infeed and outfeed pipes to storage tanks along Hihn's Mill Road within the Soquel Demonstration State Forest (SDSF).

The first area (Site 1) is located $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile to the west of the intersection of Hihn's Mill Road and Highland Way along Hihn's Mill Road. At this location, two 5,000 gallon storage tanks are proposed for installation as well as approximately 200 feet of trench to accommodate the infeed and outfeed pipes. A hydrant will also be installed at this location adjacent to Hihn's Mill Road in an existing turnout. The proposed storage tank area (approximately 50 feet by 50 feet) consists of second growth redwood and mixed hardwood forest. Approximately 20 trees will have to be removed to make room for the proposed storage tank pad. Two madrone trees are 20 inch DBH, the remainder of the trees proposed for removal are 18 inches and less in diameter. The existing well casing is located on an existing cleared, rocked, turnout adjacent to Hihn's Mill Road. One small shed with an approximately 10 foot by 10 foot footprint will be constructed over the well head to house and protect electrical equipment and valves.

The second area (Site 2) is located adjacent to a helicopter landing zone approximately 0.10 miles south west of the intersection of Hihn's Mill Road and Sulfur Springs Road. There is an existing 5,000 gallon storage tank and hydrant at this location. Drilling of one water well is proposed at this site in order to supply the existing water storage tank. An appropriate amount of trench will be installed in order to connect the water well to the storage tank. Additionally one small shed with an approximately 10 foot by 10 foot footprint will be constructed over the well head to house and protect electrical equipment and valves.

The third area (Site 3) is adjacent to Hihn's Mill Road at mile marker 4.75. An approximately 100' by 100' parking area/turn around exists on a large flat area below the toe of the break in slope. An existing 13,000 gallon storage tank is located approximately 200 feet to the east, elevated on the spine of a small ridge, and is plumbed to a hydrant on the parking area/turn around. Drilling of one water well is proposed at this site in order to supply the existing water storage tank. An appropriate amount of trench will be installed in order to connect the water well to the storage tank. Additionally one small shed with an approximately 10 foot by 10 foot footprint will be constructed over the well head to house and protect electrical equipment and valves.

These water tanks will be used for fire suppression and road maintenance of SFSF. There are no known endangered, threatened or sensitive plants or animal species within the project areas.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|---------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Categorical Exemption | Type/Section: | |
| | | Class 3 New Construction of Small Structure | \$15303 |
| | | Class 4 Minor Alterations to Land | \$15304 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Statutory Exemption (state code section): | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268) | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a)) | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c)) | | |



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REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

This project fits within the Class 3 and 4 Categorical Exemptions described in state law (14 CCR Sections 15303, and 15304) pertaining to new construction of small structures, and minor alterations to land, would not have a significant effect on the environment, and is exempt from the provisions of CEQA. The project involves the construction of new wells and associated facilities 15303 (d) and minor alterations to land 15304 (f).

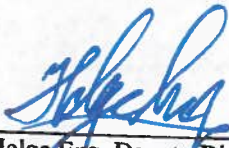
Field review by CAL FIRE staff confirmed that no exceptions apply which would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. The Department has concluded that no significant environmental impact would occur to aesthetics, agriculture and forestland/timberland, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation/traffic, or to utilities and service systems. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the Department is kept on file at the address noted above.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

MAY 24 2016

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

 5/20/16

Helge Eng, Deputy Director Date
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection